

THE ARMOR OF THE MAINE.

PROPOSAL TO SCALE IT DOWN TWO HUNDRED TONS REJECTED.

PLAN CALCULATED TO MAKE THE MAINE, THE MISSOURI AND THE OHIO THE BEST PROTECTED BATTLESHIPS NOW BUILDING ADOPED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
Washington, July 25.—The Naval Board on construction to-day unanimously rejected the proposal to scale down the armor of the battleship Maine by 200 tons, according to the plans of the bidders. The officers present at the meeting were Rear-Admiral O'Neil, chairman of the Board and Chief of Ordnance; Rear Admiral Nicholson, Chief Constructor; Rear Admiral Melville, Engineer-in-Chief, and Rear Admiral Bradford, Chief of Equipment.

Afterward the Board adopted a modified plan presented by Chief Constructor Nicholson, redistributing the armor weights in a manner that is calculated to make the Maine, the Missouri and the Ohio the best protected battleships now building for any country. This plan preserves within an insignificant 7 1/2 tons the aggregate weight of armor originally adopted for this class of ships, which was 2,500 tons, and while reducing its thickness about one inch in the belt amidships, additional protection is extended toward the extremities of the exposed structure. The plan met the cordial approval of the Chief of Ordnance, who was satisfied that 11 inches of the latest process steel plate was thick enough as a maximum for any battleship, and who welcomed the increased armor forward and aft as typical of the best practice abroad at this time.

The Board further agreed without dissent that under no circumstances should a ship of this class less than 12,500 tons be accepted, and that this displacement must be secured with 2,000 tons of coal aboard and on a draught not exceeding 23 feet 10 1/2 inches. It was shown to the satisfaction of the Board that, while the Maine with the scaled down armor would only displace about 12,300 tons, her draught under such conditions would be only 23 feet 6 inches. When the vessel as now building was loaded down to draw about 23 feet 9 inches, however, the required displacement of 12,500 tons, as well as thorough stability, would be readily secured.

Another advantage which is anticipated from the Chief Constructor's extension of the armor over a greater surface longitudinally will be the improvement of the vessel as a gun platform in a rough seaway. The proceedings of the Board to-day were marked by singular harmony and regard for the best interests of the Government, and it was explained after its unusually brief session that no fault whatever could be found with the contractors for the Maine, who expressed in advance their readiness to make any changes in the ship that would insure the best vessel the Government ever built. The contractors for the Missouri and the Ohio, it was believed, would promptly agree to Rear Admiral Nicholson's modification of armor distribution, and their work could go on without interruption. Fortunately, no contracts had been made for the armor of these vessels, Congress having failed to give sufficient authority.

A DENIAL FROM THE CRAMPS.

IT IS STATED THAT THE CHANGES ADOPTED TO THE FIGHTING ABILITY OF THE MAINE.

Philadelphia, July 25.—Henry W. Cramp, vice-president of the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, to-day denied the statement that serious defects had been discovered in the hull design of the new battleship Maine, now in course of construction at the Cramp's yards. The publication referred to stated that the Cramps had made the lines of the hull much finer to secure extra speed, resulting in a displacement down to 12,300 tons. In the mean time preparations for armor, armament, ammunition, etc., had been going forward with the understanding that 12,500 tons dead weight would cause the vessel to draw only 23 feet 10 1/2 inches of water. The piling down of the hull, it was stated, means that 20 tons of armor must be sacrificed or she will draw 23 feet 7 1/2 inches, which would render her inaccessible to many ports and expose her to danger.

Mr. Cramp, in his statement, says that there is an excess, instead of a shortage, of displacement, and as the Maine is now building the actual displacement is 12,560 tons, with a draught of 23 feet 10 1/2 inches. He states the article is based on conclusions drawn or deduced from a fact which is of no material importance to any one familiar with naval architecture. Continuing he says: "The addition of the Krupp type of armor, which at the time the design was accepted, it was confidently expected that Congress would approve, will leave of itself a margin far more than sufficient to cover the loss of the armor of the Maine. In the mean time, in relative value of protection, not only as compared with the development of the Krupp process, but up to the present time, but in view of the fact that before the Maine would need her armor there would be opportunity for a year and a half of further design."

"Now, while these factors to a certain extent were indeterminate at the time the design was accepted, it was well understood by every one of the members of the Board of Construction that whatever change or modification might occur in the character of the armor between the time and the time it would be necessary to manufacture the Maine's armor would be all for the better, or in the direction of improvement in ballistics power, and therefore reduction in weight, to produce the same result in resistance. All of this was and is in direct line of protection to the ship, and the battle of Santiago and of the development of battle ship design abroad. The fact that the Maine was built with the Krupp armor is a weight that can be saved without impairing the military value of the vessel, and that the change made by the cramps have added to the vessel's fighting ability."

CASS LAKE CONTROVERSY SETTLED.

SECRETARY HITCHCOCK DECIDES TO SELL LAND ON WHICH INTRUDERS ARE LOCATED.

Washington, July 25.—Secretary Hitchcock to-day finally disposed of the Cass Lake (Minnesota) controversy. He announced that the Government would sell in parcels the north half of Section 15, which comprises nearly the whole town of Cass Lake. The five hundred or more intruders are located chiefly on this half section and on the northeastern part of Section 14. They will have to remove from Section 16 as soon as possible.

The decision of Secretary Hitchcock closes the controversy over the proposed cession of the lands from the Cass Lake Indian Reservation. Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, was present when the announcement was made and expressed his satisfaction. This places the 355 acres of land open to all for purchase. The half section will be advertised for sixty days, and the intruders must take their chances in the purchase of the lands or remove from them. The adjacent Section No. 16 is not similarly to be sold off as it consists mainly of agricultural lands and is subject to allotment for homestead requirements. The intruders there must buy and in the other section or remove from the reservation.

AUXILIARY NAVAL VESSELS SOLD.

Washington, July 25.—The Secretary of the Navy has disposed of several vessels purchased by the Government for naval purposes, but which are no longer needed, as follows:

The repair ship Vulcan, at the League Island Navy Yard, appraised at \$100,000, sold to Michael Jenkins, of the Merchants and Miners Transportation Company, for \$75,750.
The collier Scipio, at the New York Navy Yard, appraised at \$25,000, sold to Louis Luckenbach, of New York, for \$25,000.
The ferryboat East Boston, at the Boston Navy Yard, appraised at \$30,000, sold to Phillips, Wool & Watson, of Portsmouth, N. H., for \$25,000.
The collier Niagara, at the New York Navy Yard, appraised at \$60,000, sold to Henry P. Booth, of New York, for \$55,500.
Of the other vessels offered for sale the yacht

Enquirer, appraised at \$30,000, was withdrawn at the request of the War Department, and transferred to that Department, and the bids for the ferryboat Governor Russell, appraised at \$35,000, were rejected, as the highest bid, that of the city of Boston, was \$10,000 less than the appraised value of the vessel. The Governor Russell, which is now at the Norfolk Navy Yard, will be repaired and offered for sale again.



A FAMILY AFFAIR.

SHEEHAN VERSUS CROKER.

THE BOSS'S EFFORTS TO FORCE A LEADER ON THE IXTH DISTRICT.

OTHER REVOLTS MAY FOLLOW HIS DEFEAT—ISAAC A. HOPPER HAS MUCH STRENGTH IN THE XXXIST.

Tammany voters and workers in all parts of the city are taking a deep interest in the fight which John C. Sheehan is making to retain his leadership of the organization in the IXth Assembly District. It is now believed generally, as Mr. Sheehan asserted in the beginning of the fight, that Richard Croker has determined to force another leader on the organization in the district, and the contest between the two big Tammany tigers is being watched with close attention. In the IXth District the feeling has become exceedingly bitter. Councilman Frank J. Goodwin, who has been put forward as Mr. Croker's candidate for the leadership, is being denounced by the followers of Mr. Sheehan daily and nightly wherever Tammany men gather. The fight promises to keep growing hotter as the time for the primary election in September approaches.

It is believed by many Tammany men that if Mr. Sheehan wins a decisive victory at the primaries several other district leaders will be encouraged to resist the dictation of Mr. Croker, and that the day of Mr. Croker's dethronement as a political boss will be near at hand. If one leader can defy the boss with impunity, why not others? There are indications already that the fight started by Mr. Sheehan is spreading into other districts, and the leaders who are submissive and faithful to Mr. Croker have been sending appeals to him to hasten his return from England.

The action of Daniel F. McMahon in ignoring the recommendations of Mr. Sheehan for the appointments of Democratic election officers in the IXth District has added much fuel to the flame of indignation against Mr. Croker. Mr. McMahon, as the chairman of the Tammany Executive Committee, is understood to be acting under Mr. Croker's orders. His defiance in the court proceedings begun by Mr. Sheehan to compel the recognition of the regular organization lists of candidates for election officers, that Mr. Sheehan was distressed by the Tammany leaders and was believed to be disloyal, has been regarded as another open confession of Mr. Croker's design to dictate a leader for the district organization. Mr. Sheehan yesterday prepared a statement, which probably will be submitted to the court, to show that he has been loyal to the Tammany organization and trusted by the organization in his district. What his district organization thinks of his leadership may be inferred from a circular which the organization is scattering through the district. The circular contains these declarations:

"The present leader has by hard and energetic work changed the district from a stanch Republican to a stanch Democratic one, and brought the district organization to the excellent position it occupies today—respected by all reputable citizens. While he has been a consistent Tammany Hall Democrat and will always so continue, he is resolutely opposed to outside interference in the district, and will not tolerate, in so far as he can, dictation from those who are seeking to weaken the party by actions of questionable policy and expediency. He believes in home rule, free speech and free men, and he knows that the people of the district can manage their own affairs. The conclusion, therefore, seems to be natural that every Democrat and every citizen of the district should rise up to resist the attempt to impose upon them such unwarranted and high-handed methods, which and their culmination in an effort to deprive them of a leader selected by their votes, who seeks no higher reward than the welfare of the district, and force them to accept a person, selected by a man who is not a resident of the district and who has no interest therein."

A large number of the supporters of Isaac A. Hopper, the anti-Crocker aspirant for the leadership of the Tammany organization in the XXXist Assembly District, met at the clubhouse of the Carondelet Democratic Club, No. 1,222 Madison-ave., last evening. A. E. Crabtree, president of the club, introduced as speakers William Burr, Frank W. McGuirk, Augustus Levy, president of the Harlem Hebrew Union, and L. W. Goldrich. The meeting was enthusiastic, and there was considerable cheering whenever Mr. Hopper's name was mentioned. Charles Weldie, Commissioner of Jurors, the present district leader, is alleged to be unpopular with the voters of the district and to bestow patronage among the members of his immediate family.

Mr. Hopper was called upon for a few remarks, and promised the voters a stanch Republican, and promised the voters a stanch Republican, and promised the voters a stanch Republican.

OMAHA PERMANENT TEACHERS' LIST.

PLAN TO TAKE THE SCHOOLS OUT OF PARTISAN POLITICS—FIVE YEARS SATISFACTORY SERVICE THE REQUIREMENT.

Omaha, July 25 (Special).—The programme to establish what is to be known as the permanent teachers' list in the Omaha public schools has been agreed upon by the Omaha Board of Education, and all the details have been completed, though the committee to select the permanent list has not yet done any work. The idea of a Civil Service reform such as this has been agitated in the local schools for some time, because with every political change of the Board the whole teachers' list has been revised, and the result has been that the Board has been in trouble several times trying to get the best teachers for the schools. The plan was worked out by the Republican majority of the Board.

Every teacher in Omaha who has been em-

FOR DEWEY OR FITZHUGH LEE.

NEW-JERSEY'S DEMOCRATIC BOSS IS NOT IN FAVOR OF BRYAN'S NOMINATION.

"Bob" Davis, the owner of the Democratic party in Hudson County and prospective proprietor of the party in New-Jersey, is not an enthusiastic Bryan man. When asked yesterday about his choice of candidates for the nomination for President, he said:

"My own opinion is that Admiral Dewey would make a fine candidate for President, and it behooves the Democratic leaders to make every effort to get the Admiral to accept the nomination of the Democratic party. If the Admiral absolutely refuses to accept such a nomination, the party ought to cast about for such men as General Fitzhugh Lee."

With him on the Democratic National ticket McKinley's defeat would be assured. There would be no doubt as to the outcome of next year's canvass. The Democracy would enter the fight with enthusiasm and confidence, and McKinley and Hobart would be doomed to defeat at the very outset."

Mr. Davis declined to discuss Bryan's chances for receiving the nomination.

THE BAILEY TO BE LAUNCHED AUGUST 21.

Washington, July 25.—The Navy Department has received notice from the contractors for the thirty-ton torpedo boat, the Bailey, now building at Morris Canal, N. J., that she will be ready to be launched on August 21.

QUICK TRIP FROM PORT ANTONIO.

The British steamer Ardmore, Captain Walker, which arrived here yesterday from Port Antonio, Jamaica, made the passage in 4 days, 23 hours and 55 minutes.

BRYAN AND ALTGELD.

IMPORTANCE OF THE EX-GOVERNOR'S INFLUENCE IN A NATIONAL CONTEST.

THE HARRISON FACTION LITTLE TO BE FEARED

—NO ATTEMPT BEING MADE BY BRYAN TO OBSCURE THE SILVER ISSUE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, July 25.—A number of mistaken and misleading impressions seem to have reached the East, through certain newspaper publications, both of the work done by the Democratic National Committee in Chicago last Thursday, and of the attitude assumed at that gathering by Colonel W. J. Bryan, the prospective nominee of the party for the Presidency in next year's National canvass. The display by Mr. Bryan at the committee's meeting of some primary qualities of political leadership—his determination not to involve himself in the quarrel of the Chicago factions, and his polite desire to conciliate the elements in the party which have hitherto looked askance at his candidacy—have doubtless suggested the over-hasty conclusions that Mr. Bryan is ready, on the one hand, to break with the extremists like Altgeld, who secured his nomination in 1896, and, on the other, to delegate the free coinage issue to the background in his second race for the Presidency. Neither inference is warranted, however, by anything that happened last week at Chicago.

Mr. Bryan realized that to retain his supremacy in the party he must poll a larger vote in the Electoral College in 1900 than he did in 1896, and he is naturally eager to offer the lukewarm and disaffected Eastern wing of the Democracy any reasonable platform concessions which fall short of an actual repudiation of the declarations of 1896. He is also anxious to encourage any friendly approaches made by the elements more or less hostile to his second candidacy. His present policy, as announced in The Tribune's dispatches from Chicago last Thursday, is one of caution and conciliation; and that policy was applied both in the benevolently neutral attitude which he assumed toward the Harrison and Altgeld factions in Illinois, and in the overruling of all schemes suggested for the establishment of severe tests of party regularity and the administration—especially in the East—of a more rigid party discipline. But his friendliness to the representatives of the regular Democratic organization in Illinois did not by any means go to the length of a severance of his long standing political and personal relations with ex-Governor John P. Altgeld, nor did his insistence on a liberal interpretation of the present standards of Democratic regularity commit him to the surrender of free silver coinage as a paramount article of party faith.

CLAIMS OF THE HARRISON FACTION.

It is clear that Mr. Bryan, as a champion of party regularity, could not afford to ignore the claims to recognition put forward by the Harrison faction in Illinois. Mayor Harrison and his friends now control the Democratic organization not only in Chicago but throughout the State, and Mr. Altgeld, by bolting the regular ticket in last spring's municipal election in Chicago and running as an independent candidate, plainly put himself and his following outside the party pale. Thomas J. Gahan, the Democratic National Committeeman from Illinois, is an ardent anti-Altgeld partisan, but at the same time he is disposed to lend a helping hand in Colonel Bryan's canvass for renomination. In the open letter Mr. Gahan published last week, declining to be present at the Auditorium meeting, he openly pledged the regular Democracy's support to Bryan in the next National Convention, and this pledge was heartily seconded by other leaders in the Harrison organization. It is no wonder that, under these circumstances, Colonel Bryan should seek to be released from the awkward predicament in which an innocent acceptance of the invitation to speak at the Auditorium meeting had placed him, or that he should assure the Harrison managers of his sincere regret that he had been caught in so unpleasant a dilemma. But that, when addressing the "outcasts" in the Auditorium, he should declare that "all Chicago Democrats look alike to me" is certainly no evidence that he has determined to cut loose from the ex-Governor politically, or that he sees no further advantage in maintaining the friendship which did so much to insure his nomination for the Presidency three years ago.

Mr. Bryan has little or nothing to fear from the regular or Harrison Democracy in Illinois, for the leaders of the organization admit that they cannot divert the vote of the State next year to any other candidate. Their influence in politics, moreover, does not extend beyond the borders of Illinois. Ex-Governor Altgeld, on the other hand, though at present the head of a defeated and somewhat discredited minority faction at home, is still a force to be reckoned with in any political contest of National importance.

BRYAN'S POSITION AS A LEADER.

In the minds of George Fred Williams and the New-England school of Free Silver Democrats Altgeld's rôle as a "thinker" and leader is scarcely inferior to that of Bryan himself. Jones, of Arkansas, Tillman and the Western and Southwestern radicals look to Altgeld as one of the leading spokesmen in the North and West of the extreme doctrines of Populism and Nationalism. Moreover, the ex-Governor is one of the founders and moving spirits of the new Ohio Valley Bimetallite League—an organization formed by the silver extremists of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois to deter the party organizations in those States from "betraying" the cause of silver. The League met in Chicago last Thursday to observe and, if necessary, intimidate the National Committee, and it makes no secret of its purpose to antagonize as its essential auxiliary organization it is safe to assume that Mr. Bryan's friendship for the ex-Governor will suffer neither collapse nor even serious diminution.

THE SILVER ISSUE UNOBSURED.

Nor can Mr. Bryan's show of amiability toward the Eastern organizations still suspected of heterodoxy be taken to prove that the silver issue is to be obscured, consciously or unconsciously, in next year's canvass. Mr. Bryan could not shelve the silver issue if he would, and pride of opinion would probably not lead him to do it if he could. Another nominee might manage to send free coinage to the rear, but with the echoes of the campaign of 1896 ringing in his ears the Nebraska orator has no other choice than to appeal simply and frankly for a reversal of that popular verdict of four years ago. The "Silver or bust" politicians, who have organized the Ohio Valley and the National Bimetallite leagues; the Southern managers, who fear to revitalize the corpse of Populism; all the restless agitators and idealists attracted to the Democratic cause in 1896 who are now clamoring for the old leader are also clamoring for the old platform. And in spite of the plausible suggestions and secret desires of practical Northern and Western politicians, who see failure ahead unless the issues are shifted, sentiment is likely to prove stronger than policy, and the Democratic platform of 1900 promises to contain again as its essential plank that declaration of financial charlatanry with which the whole career and reputation of the probable Presidential candidate has been so intimately bound up.

NO SILVER FOR MARYLAND DEMOCRATS.

ALL THE CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION FOR GOVERNOR GOLD MEN—GORMAN INFLUENCE DOMINATES.

Baltimore, July 25 (Special).—Free silver will not figure in the Democratic State Convention, which meets in this city on August 2. All the six candidates are gold standard men, and the two leaders in the race, Colonel John Walter Smith and Edwin Warfield, are directors in and presidents of financial institutions. The majority of the counties have held their primaries and the results show that the old regular Democratic organization, of which Gorman has for twenty years been the leader, will absolutely control the convention.

While some members of the Executive Committee state that the slate has been made up and that Colonel Smith's nomination is a foregone conclusion, others assert that if Warfield can carry the primaries next Monday he will in addition get enough delegates from the southern and western counties to win a majority. A correspondence with the Baltimore Standard, who was only elected to Congress last fall, should, as they think, jeopardize his district by running for Governor. The Colonel's friends, however, are confident that with him at the head of the State ticket he would carry through safely any eastern shore Democrat nominated to succeed him in the last District.

FEW POPULISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

LAST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE PROMISES TO BE A FIZZLE.

Columbia, S. C., July 25 (Special).—Five years ago the National Alliance had more than forty thousand members in South Carolina, the largest proportion to the voting population of any State. There are now less than three thousand members in good standing. To-morrow's State Convention will probably be the last gasp of the order in this State, although Senator Tillman, in view of his position next year, is working to keep up a show of organization. J. C. Wilborn, president of the National Alliance, is here, but will not talk. The convention promises to be a fizzle.

TWO BATTLESHIPS NEAR COLLISION.

THE KEARSARGE AND THE KENTUCKY ALMOST READY FOR THEIR GUNS.

Washington, July 25.—The two big battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky are now well along toward completion that the contractors have called for the 8-inch guns, as they are about ready to put on the upper turrets and mount the guns in them. The last report showed the ships about \$2 per cent completed, but the call for the guns is such a material advance that it is thought their first speed trial will occur some time in September.

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